

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

**Claim 1: Canceled**

1    **2. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 11 wherein:  
2                    the protocol ensures that the results of the transaction are consistent in  
3    the components; and  
4                    in the step of receiving an augmented one of the messages, the protocol state  
5    information indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the other  
6    component.

1    **3. (currently amended)** The method set forth in claim 2 wherein:  
2                    the protocol being optimized is a two-phase commit protocol;  
3                    and  
4                    in the step of using the retained state to optimize the protocol the first  
5                    component sends a message of the two-phase commit protocol that aborts the  
6                    transaction to an other component when the other component's retained state indicates  
7                    that the transaction does not modify the data in the other component.

1    **4. (original)** The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:  
2                    the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are  
3    database systems therein.

1    **5. (previously presented)** A method of ensuring that a first component of a  
2    distributed system that exchanges messages that belong to a transaction with one or

3 more other components of the distributed system is additionally aware of a protocol  
4 state of an other component, the protocol state being relevant to a protocol that is  
5 employed with the transaction, the first component being a coordinator for the  
6 protocol and  
7 the method comprising the steps practiced in the other component of:  
8       determining the protocol state; and  
9       augmenting a message of the transaction by adding protocol state information  
10 to the message, the protocol state information indicating the protocol state of the other  
11 component,  
12 the first component using the protocol state to optimize the protocol.

1 **6. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2       the protocol state indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the  
3 other component.

1 **7. (currently amended)** The method set forth in claim 6 wherein:

2       the protocol being optimized by the first component is a two-phase commit  
3 protocol; and the other component receives an abort message of the two-phase  
4 commit protocol when the protocol state indicates that the transaction will not modify  
5 the data in the other component.

1 **8. (original)** The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:

2       the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are  
3 database systems therein.

1   **9. (previously presented)** A method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a  
2   transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and  
3   the method comprising the steps performed in the coordinator of:  
4       receiving a message of the transaction from the cohort, the message being  
5   augmented with state information indicating whether the transaction modifies the  
6   cohort's data;  
7       retaining the state information for the cohort; and  
8       if the state information for the cohort indicates that the transaction does not  
9   modify the cohort's data, sending an abort message of the two-phase commit protocol  
10  to the cohort.

1   **10. (previously presented)** A method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a  
2   transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and  
3   the method comprising the steps performed in the cohort of:  
4       augmenting a message that the cohort sends to the coordinator as part of the  
5   transaction with state information indicating whether the transaction will modify the  
6   cohort; and  
7       responding to messages received from the coordinator as required by the  
8   commit protocol,  
9   the coordinator sending a message of the commit protocol to the cohort as determined  
10  by the state information.

1   **11. (previously presented)** A method practiced in a first component of a distributed  
2   system that exchanges messages belonging to a transaction with one or more other  
3   components of the distributed system of optimizing a protocol, the protocol being

4 employed by the first component and the other component in making the transaction,  
5 the first component being a coordinator for the protocol, and  
6 the method comprising the steps of:  
7 receiving an augmented one of the messages from the other component, the  
8 other component having augmented the message by adding protocol state information  
9 to the message, the protocol state information indicating a state of the other  
10 component that is relevant to the protocol;  
11 retaining the state of the other component indicated in the augmented  
12 message; and  
13 using the retained state to optimize the protocol.

1 **12. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs  
3 the method of claim 11.

1 **13. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs  
3 the method of claim 2.

1 **14. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs  
3 the method of claim 3.

1 **15. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 4.

- 1 **16. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:
- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 5.

- 1 **17. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:
- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 6.

- 1 **18. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:
- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 7.

- 1 **19. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:
- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 8.

- 1 **20. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:
- 2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs
- 3 the method of claim 9.

- 1 **21. (previously presented)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs the  
3 method of claim 10.

1 **22. (previously presented)** A coordinator in a distributed system that coordinates a  
2 protocol employed with a transaction that exchanges messages with one or more other  
3 components of the distributed system,  
4 the coordinator having the improvement comprising:  
5 retained state information that retains state of an other component that is  
6 relevant to the protocol,  
7 the coordinator receiving a message of the transaction from the other component  
8 which has been augmented with the state information, retaining the state information  
9 from the augmented message in the retained state information, and using the retained  
10 state information to optimize the protocol.

1 **23. (previously presented)** The coordinator set forth in claim 22 wherein:  
2 the protocol ensures that the results of the transaction are consistent in the  
3 components; and  
4 the retained state information for the other component indicates whether the  
5 transaction will modify data in the other component.

1 **24. (currently amended)** The coordinator set forth in claim 23 wherein:  
2 the protocol being optimized is a two-phase commit protocol; and  
3 the coordinator sends a message of the two-phase commit protocol that aborts  
4 the transaction to an other component when the other component's retained state  
5 indicates that the transaction does not modify the data in the other component.

1 **25. (previously presented)** The coordinator set forth in claim 24 wherein:  
2 the distributed system is a distributed database system and the coordinator and  
3 the other component are database systems therein.

1   **26. (previously presented)** A cohort in a distributed system, the cohort being  
2   involved in a transaction which employs a protocol that is coordinated by a  
3   coordinator and exchanging messages of the transaction with the coordinator,  
4   the cohort having the improvement comprising:  
5       a message of the protocol that is augmented with state information indicating a  
6   state of the cohort which is relevant to the protocol,  
7   the cohort sending the message to the coordinator and the coordinator retaining the  
8   state information and using the retained state information to optimize the protocol.

1   **27. (previously presented)** The cohort set forth in claim 26 wherein:  
2       the protocol ensures that the results of the transaction are consistent in the  
3   components; and  
4       the state information in the augmented message indicates whether the  
5   transaction will modify data in the cohort.

1   **28. (currently amended)** The cohort set forth in claim 27 wherein:  
2       the protocol being optimized by the coordinator is a two-phase commit  
3   protocol; and  
4       the coordinator sends a message of the two-phase commit protocol that aborts  
5   the transaction to the cohort when the retained state information for the cohort  
6   indicates that the transaction does not modify the data in the cohort.

1   **29. (previously presented)** The cohort set forth in claim 28 wherein:  
2       the distributed system is a distributed database system and the cohort and  
3   coordinator are database systems therein.

1   **30. (previously presented)** A coordinator in a distributed system that coordinates a  
2   two-phase commit protocol employed with a transaction that involves one or more  
3   cohorts in the distributed system,  
4   the coordinator having the improvement comprising:  
5       retained state information that retains state of a cohort, the state indicating  
6   whether the transaction will modify the cohort's data,

7 the coordinator receiving a message of the transaction from the cohort which has been  
8 augmented with the state information, retaining the state information from the  
9 augmented message in the retained state information, and if the retained state  
10 information for the cohort indicates that the transaction does not modify the cohort's  
11 data, sending an abort message of the two-phase commit protocol to the cohort.

1 **31. (previously presented)** A cohort in a distributed system in which a coordinator in the  
2 distributed system coordinates a two-phase commit protocol employed with a transaction  
3 that involves the cohort,  
4 the cohort having the improvement comprising:  
5 a message of the transaction that is augmented with state information indicating  
6 whether the transaction will modify the cohort's data,  
7 the cohort sending the message to the coordinator and the coordinator retaining the state  
8 information and if the retained state information for the cohort indicates that the  
9 transaction does not modify the cohort's data, sending an abort message of the two-phase  
10 commit protocol to the cohort.